



The President's Daily Brief

March 1, 1976

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Top Secret

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ANGOLA-ZAIRE

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RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique apparently has decided to impose sanctions against Rhodesia by closing the border, cutting off Rhodesian trade through Mozambique.

President Machel took a tough public stand on Rhodesia following Mozambique's independence last June. Economic problems and internal dissensions, however, have prevented him from disrupting the lucrative economic ties between the two countries. Machel's change of mind now almost certainly is designed to pressure Smith into a settlement with Joshua Nkomo.

No public announcement of the sanctions has been made, but the arrest last week of some Rhodesian railroad workers just inside Mozambique may have been a signal to Smith that a new get-tough policy was under way.

Machel, Tanzanian President Nyerere, and Zambian President Kaunda still seem willing to use political pressure on Smith even though they recognize the inevitability of insurgency against the Rhodesian government. [redacted]

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The insurgents still are not a unified or effective force. Nevertheless, insurgent activity in northeastern Rhodesia is growing and gaining momentum. In addition, there have been Rhodesian incursions into Mozambique and some minor clashes between Rhodesian and regular Mozambican forces.

PORUGAL

Analysis of the agreement signed by political and military leaders last Thursday indicates that it is not so much a call for a return to civilian rule as it is a document that sets up obstacles to prevent a return to a leftist-dominated administration.

Civilian political leaders will be more involved in the day-to-day running of the government and will be in control of the legislature once it is elected on April 25.

The military retains considerable clout, however. The all-military Revolutionary Council, chaired by the President, has been given veto power over all legislation. The veto can be overturned only by a two-thirds vote of the legislature. The Council also retains certain other functions that can only be regarded as a license to intervene if the military decides that the civilians are incapable of governing.

The signing of the pact is the culmination of a series of measures that have substantially toned down leftist government programs and have steadily eliminated Communist influence in the country. The shift to the right in government policies reflects the mood of the country as a whole.

In recent weeks, there has been an upsurge of anti-Communist activity in the north, and the Communists are complaining that there are many areas where they will be unable to campaign effectively for the April election.

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